

Serial No. 10/695,499

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Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 2 as follows:

-- This application is a continuation application of US patent application no. 09/302,626, filed April 30, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,709,660, which is a continuation-in-part of international patent application PCT/TB99/00103, filed January 14, 1999, from which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 120, and which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to Great Britain applications nos. GB9800022143.5, filed on October 9, 1998, GB9819015.0, filed on September 1, 1998 and GB9800760.2, filed on January 14, 1998, which applications are incorporated herein by reference. --

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 50, line 20 as follows:

-- Figure **8A-D** shows an alignment comparison of amino acid sequences for ORF 40 for several strains of *Neisseria* (zn07_1, SEQ ID NO:96; zn20_1, SEQ ID NO:104; zn21_1, SEQ ID NO:105; zn06_1, SEQ ID NO:95; zn19_1, SEQ ID NO:103; zn03_1, SEQ ID NO:93; zn18_1, SEQ ID NO:102; zn11_ass, SEQ ID NO:99; zn02_1, SEQ ID NO:92; zn04_1, SEQ ID NO:94; zn16_1, SEQ ID NO:1011; zn14_1, SEQ ID NO:100; z2491, SEQ ID NO:91; zn10_1, SEQ ID NO:98; zn22_1, SEQ ID NO:106; zn23_1, SEQ ID NO:107; zn28_ass, SEQ ID NO:110; zn24_1, SEQ ID NO:108; zn25_ass, SEQ ID NO:109; zn08_1, SEQ ID NO:97; zn29_ass, SEQ ID NO:111). Dark shading indicates regions of homology, and gray shading indicates the conservation of amino acids with similar characteristics. The Figure demonstrates a high degree of conservation among the various strains, further confirming its utility as an antigen for both vaccines and diagnostics. --

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